



Wisdom: More Than You Know
Sermon Discussion Questions – April 16, 2023

Scripture Passages:

Proverbs 4:7 NIV- Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding

James 1:5- If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Proverbs 9:10 -The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Luke 12:5-7 NLT- I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear. "What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

Psalms 139:17–18 NKJV- How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.

John 17:23- “The world will know that you [God] sent me [Jesus Christ] and that you love them as much as you love me.”

Psalms 111:10 TLB- How can men be wise? The only way to begin is by reverence for God. For growth in wisdom comes from obeying his laws. Praise his name forever.

Proverbs 14:12 NKJV- There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

James 1:16-17- Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Psalms 97: 7-11- All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!⁸ Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, LORD.⁹ For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. ¹⁰ Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Philippians 2:12-13- Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Warm Up:

As we jump into a new series after Easter, it feels like a new start in some ways. Think about it! We just spent the Lenten season reflecting on our need for God, and now we are in a season of celebrating the freedom and life that Christ brings through his resurrection! Even the weather is beginning to change. It’s warmer, and we are starting to see the blooms that we have been waiting for all winter!

What is something that you look forward to in this “spring” season? Is it a new spiritual focus or something in the simplicity of what we see happening in nature?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Scott opened his message with the definitions of wisdom and knowledge. “Knowledge is knowing about something, while Wisdom is knowing what to do about something”

Can you think of a moment in your life when you thought you had wisdom about something, but it turned out that you had no wisdom at all? What happened, and what did you learn?

2. Last week, there was an opportunity in our Easter services to put some level of faith and trust into what Jesus did on the cross. The big question now is, "What do we do with that?" What does it look like to make God's wisdom the center of your life?

3. Take a look at these verses from Proverbs "The book of Wisdom."

Proverbs 9:10- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 NIV- Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.

After reading these verses, why do you think wisdom is so important?

4. Read Luke 12:5-7. "There is a difference between holy fear and unholy fear. Holy fear does not mean being scared of God and consequently withdrawing from Him, but unholy fear does. The difference lies in our inconceivable value to God. In essence, Jesus reveals that God deeply treasures us and, therefore, grants us the gift of holy fear. This gift safeguards us by keeping us close to the Giver of life."

What has it looked like for you to live in unholy fear? What about holy fear?

How have you seen holy fear safeguard you and bring you closer to God?

5. Pastor Scott shared that the Wisdom of God is the path to living well. As we spend time with God, He gives us understanding and guidance.

In what places of your life do you need God's wisdom to live well?

6. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Wisdom in our lives brings transformation that is moved and empowered by God. God works in us to desire to do what pleases Him!

Where have you seen God transform you in your life to desire to do what pleases Him?

7. So instead of asking, "What would Jesus do" maybe we should have been asking, "How can I spend more time with Jesus?... You trust Jesus for your salvation, the forgiveness of your sins, but do you trust Jesus enough to put yourself under his wisdom?" -Pastor Scott

What does it look like for you to actively participate in spending time with Jesus and gaining His wisdom?

Next Steps:

To begin this journey of obtaining wisdom, we must see where we are at. The set of questions below may help you process what values and actions in your life can be submitted and transformed by the Wisdom of God. Use this set of questions to help guide your reflection or conversation.

What set of values determines your schedule?

What view of life determines how you make decisions?

What perspective about the nature of and purpose for your existence forms your everyday priorities?

How does your thinking shape what you do and say every day?

What does it look like for you to actively pursue wisdom?